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ABSTRACT

This book presents a new vision of curriculum--one that invites students to read with important social ideas in mind and write with the purpose of making the world a better place. Developed over years of classroom experience with diverse children, the book will help more experienced teachers take the next step in their professional growth, while providing newer teachers with a picture of how the largest purposes in democratic education connect to the details of teaching. A reader-friendly guide for bringing critical literacy into readings and writing workshops, the book demonstrates how to: support students' writing for public purposes and connect their personal writing to important social issues; facilitate more meaningful talk in the classroom; develop students' language and concepts for discussing significant social and political ideas in response to literature; help students inquire into the daily politics of classroom life; integrate social studies, writing, and literature in experiential, inquiry-based ways; and assure that all students have access to a rich and meaningful education for social justice. The book, with examples from real children and grounded in theories of democracy and culture, aims to guide teachers back to their original motives for going into education and helps them construct deeper purposes for carrying on their daily work. (Contains a 134-item bibliography.) (NKA)

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